Janual of Captain Milliam Sturgis
of Boston, Mass.

Who made several voyages to the Morth
Mest Coast at the end of the last century
for trading purposes.

Original in possession of
Mrs. Henry adams.

1717B To those who are concerned in the north Hest Irade, the following information and remarks may be somewhat interexting - I shall briefly state the number of vessels employed, the quantity of fun dollected and the average price at Canton each year. also the price of skins and articles most in demand on the Coast. and the causes of the great Aluctuation in the value of those articles. I shall likewise mention the casualties which have annually occurred . - - - -Masters When belonging Mumber of the. - Akins. Description Name of Vessels. Ship Eliza Rowan Boston 2800 Elysses Lamb 1200 Crocker Hancock 1700 Brech Despatch 1400 • " Dave Duffen Canton 1000 Cheerful Beck Dragon Cleveland 700 Sloop 2200 11000

which sold at an average price of twenty Jive dollars per Skin. Then we arrived on the coast in the Eliza, Feb 13th, the articles most in demand were blue broadclothand nd- Musketo, Great Coats- Powder- Ison were, axes and coarse cuttery -- we commenered trade by giving two farthoms of blue cloth for a fine skin, or a musket for thru skins, wire, beads, axes, cuttery etc. were given for small skins and Stails. Before the end of the season the price was advanced to five fathoms cloth in consequence of the very injudicions and improper conduct of some of the Genthemen who had disection the business, this misconduct was particularly notorons in one instance which fell under my immediate observation, the Mysses and Despatch met together at a Port called Isisseene when the nations had about 250 skins for sale, both began trade at two fathous and small assortment of trifling articles of little value,

every skinmight have been purchased in two days at this price and each ship had an equal number but un fortunateby the commanders were at variance and each was anxious to injure the other, the consequence was the price of skins was raised in course of an hour from 2 factoms to & fathoms and the natives finding such a competition were averse to selling their skins lest the price should raise still more and we were tens days detained instead of two and paid 15 oper cent more than we need to have done. The news of this transaction spread rapidly among the neighboring tribes and at every port we visited afterwards we were compelled to give the same price-2 fathoms sed cloth was considered equal To 3 blue and was in demand. The cargoes of the Mysses from Canton consisted cheifly of great coats made of their serge, some cloth, china made trunks, 3 Thests and various trinkels, some of which sold well, fortunately there were

not a sufficient number of mus kets on the coast to meet the demand, of course they rose in value toward the close Athe season, when a good one would sell for 4 sometimes 5 skins on many parts of the coast. This year the following circumstances gave rise to that fondness for bread, rice + molasses they (the natives) have since manifested and which now make up so considerable a part of the M.M. cargo. When the Eliza was at Riganne in the month of march a large number of natives had assembled in the cove when she lay about Tor 8 miles above the village to which they usually setired at night, a gale of wind setting in from the L. E. which lasted thru days detained them in the cove and their provisions were soon expended- Capt Rowan ordered some nice to be boiled and after mixing a considerable quantity of molases with it, distributed it among them, they found it very palatable and went pleased with it,

shortly after they applied to purchase some but Baving only a sufficiency for ships stones we could not sell them much as a proof of the value of molasses with them at this time I have frequently seen them, when we were giving 3 fathoms Broad cloth for a Skin, State 2 fathoms and a bottle of molasses in profesence. After the business of the day was over, if they had traded briskly and sold a large number of Skins, Capt Cowan would frequently distribute part of 1361. Bread among them, with which they were much The only simister event which happened this year was at Cumshaward a boat from the ship Cheerful was imprudently sent on shore for wood, the natives attacked the crew and with daggers and muskets massacred the second officer and two men, the others got off the the ship- all the vessels left the coast previous to the 10th of September

master when henumber of Description name of Vissel longing to Skins Alest Bowles Ship Boston 2400 Jenny Bowers 2200 Alexander Dodge 1200 Schooner Cover Davidson 1/ 2000 Hazard Swift Boston Kinteredon the for Ship Dove Duffen Lold at Canton for 22 Dollars per skin. The articles in demand this season were similar to those of last year. 3 Pathons cloth was the greatest price given and on many parts of the coast skins were Sought for 2. Some bread was sold at I skins per Ahd. and sice and molar. ses at 8 gallons of either perskin. Anosian sheeting sold quick at 5 fathoms per skin Blankets 3 for a skin, + Indian Cottons for small skins and tails. The alexander visited a Post in Lat. 51° called Hemeetre which had never before been known to the americano.

Capt. Dadge procured there 600 skins which did not cost a fathom of cloth aprice I mention this circumstance as it first opened a place to the americans where they have since collected from 1500 to 2000 Skins annually. Dodge was piloted into the place by Capt. Stewart residing at the Landwich's Islands. Captain Dodge on his outward passage landed a number of men on the island At ambrose, near Massafaere, for the purpose of Milling seals, intending to seturn their after leaving the M.M. coast. This he altempted to do but having a long passage and being short of provisions, he leapt overboard in a fit of despair and was drowned, the ship immediately proceeded for the Sandwich Islando, and on her passage from thence to China, the people on board carelessly set fire to a cash of powder in the Eabin, Alew off the gor deek and badly wounded several of the ships company.

The eventually arrived home but made a bad voyage which I think may be entirely imparted to their embracing too many objects at once. a M. H. vogage Should kever be blended with any other It is in itself a very ardnows undertaking tought to command an many mdovidual attention. The Schooner Rover, Capt. Davidson belonging to the Messon Dono of Boston left the Dandwich Islands with 2000 skins on board and was never heard of afterward, it was conjectured that she found ered in a typhoon in which the Jenny lost her miggen mast. Capt. Bowers of the Jenny anchor ed in a small harbor in Matham Straits where there was no appearance · If any indians a boats crew with the second officer were sent on shore for wood, while they were employed in cutting et, a number of natives who were luth ing in the woods, sushed between them and their arms and with spears killed

the boatswain and thru men, the officer took to the water and swam to the ship the indians fined at him with the mus-Rets belonging to the boat and shothing Stronghthe about He was however saved By about from the ship and secovered. a few pieces of thick duffills were sold to the natives this year, and they soon found the difference between this and the common then cloth, and gave it a decided preference, they also prefered a thick blanket to a fathom of this cloth, muskets still kept their value master longing to. Skins. Ship Hagard Swift 3200 (2 seasons) " Jood also carried good the atahralps Charlotte Ingersoll Gantamorin Bunshad Lucy Pierpart Despatch Dorr " 1300 Enterprise Hubbell New York Bell Lavage Ockington Boslon 600 Lavinia Holbstook Bristol R.J. 2000 Littiller Dorr Boslon 1500 Polly Kelby " 700 Bry

Desemblion nohen be-longing to name master Humber of sky Globe Mages Boston Hintered Caroline Derby " atahualpa Hild " Manchester Brice Phila Unicon Barber London " Dens sold at an average of 21 dollars. The erroneous idea which was cherished sexpecting the immense profits made in the M.M. Strade induced many adventurers to engage mit without information or capital, the consequence was what any our acquainted with the business might foresee, that almost all of them made lozing voyages. I was at this time in the Caroline with Capt. Derby, we arrived on the coast the first vessel, 22 nd January and began to purchase skins on very moderate lerns giving thru fathoms thin Blue cloth or 2 of Red, or 2 Hankets for a prime skin, a musket for 3 skins, great coats, 1 skin each.

Be for the end of april the vessels were all on the coast the brig Pally was the last that arrived, several of them were only fitted for one season and a spectator would have thought that their sole object was to get sid of their cargoes as soon as possible without minding what they got in seturn so wantonly did they squander it away that even the the natives who were seaping the profits of their miseonduct, openly censused their proceedings and laughed at their Holloy- In the months of May and June then was given at Rigarner, and in ils neighborhood by the Horiz Polly Ships Lucy and Charlotte, Brig Lavinia and several others, 10 fathorns blue clock for a skin, 3 muskets I skin and other articles in proportion except bread, nice and molasses of which they had but little Those vessels that intended wintering were compelled to spend their time In visiting the unfrequented or to where they procused but few skins but got

them on more reasonable lemms. Rice and molasses sold at lea gallons of either for a skin, and more was want. ed then the quantity on the coast but Aread was sold toward the close of the Deason for 3 skins per Ahd _ 1000 in Riel and Molasses was of more value and would bring a greater mumber of skins than Is ooo would in Nothele. The ship Bell Lavage was this year attacked in a very daring manner by the natives of a Got in Lat 52° 30' called Macosh's. The was under weigh standing down the sound with a light air of wind, numbers of indians were Standing in her chains on both sides I one cheif was sitting in the lafted inboard & the boarding nets were up but the natives had privately cut away the seignings that confined them to the bail of the cheif from the taffel giving the war hook as a signal, they suched on board and in an instant had poo. sassion of the deck Part of the crew

with the officers got into the forecastle The Indians took possession of the Cabin, where they massacred in a most shocking manner the cabin boy and a young woman. Fortunately Strey had no fine arms and a pent dis-Charges from the Joneasth compelled then to quit the ship. The number killed were thru men, as woman and a bogand several athers were very badly wounded. What number of Indians All could not be ascertained but probably not many. After the greater part of them had quitted her, one less Courageous than the sest stood on the taffel hesitating about jumping over-Hoard. Capt. Ockington came supt van a bayonet through his back with such ford that he was unable to withdraws it, I the Indian went to the bottom, mus. ket, bayonet and all Several months after this Capt. Ingersoll went to this Islace, in the Charlotte, with the avowed design of avenging this attack and

Hive of the principal cheifs were sedue-ed on board under the specious appearance of friendship and massacra in the cabin. I am sorry to say that several of the people sacrificed on this occasion, belonged to another tribe and were by no means implicated in the attack on the Bell Lavage. The friends of these unfortunate men Two belonged to the Chebasher Tribe) were of course much exasperated and waited unpatiently for an opportunity for sevenge, and it was not long before one offered. In actober Capt. Mages in The Globe went into a small harbor near the residence of these people intending To pass the winter there, as Swift Rad the preceding one. The ship was moored To the trues and the long boat pauled an shore to repair. The place chosen for this purpose was not at cables length from the ship but an intervening point of land prevented them seeing her Capt. Mager, the carpenter and a boy win

on shore; a canoe with 4 natives came into the cove along side the ship & staged then some time, they then went ou shore and so Janwas Capt. Mages Hrow apprehending any danger that The called them to him to make some inquiries on the subject of trade-The carpenters account of what followed was this - "that as he was on his knees caulking the boat, he was alarmed by the support of a pistol + at the same in-Stant found himself wounded, turning round he saw the natives holding Mages and a third strike him with an asson the head. The Indian who shot the carpenter sprang to the boy and gave him a number of deep wounds in different parts of the body notwithstanding which he got into the water and with the carpenter swam to a point of rocks in sight of the ship the Indians immediality got into their canoe and left the cove, the people from the ship being alan ed persued them in a boat till they came

to the spot when mages lay wettering in his blood, they stopped and took him ou board & ou examining his wound, Jound his head was splet across the left eye, bu lived for two or thru hours and then expersed. The boy had several deep wounds in his body mito which the salt water had Hound its way & m six hours he expined in exconciating agony. The escape of the carpenter was a swonderful one an Indian had stood directly over him and find his pestol, the ball and 3 buckshot entering the upper part of his thigh and were afterwards extracted just above his knee, with wound he continued to swim ha rock was taken on board and necovered. The situation of the ship was now extreme ly critical, she was within musket shot of the woods in every direction except a narrow opening ahead moto which the wind blew disect she was unmediately hove off to her anchor;

A hawsen sent on shore and bent to the Long bout, by which means she was got off and saved. The only way was now to endeavor to warp out of mus-Met shot of the shore, while they were doing this the four Indians had landed the back side of the harbour and came over and began firing from the woods, One ball came therough the waist cloth and striking a man in the heart killed him instantly, several others were wounded. By the most stremuous efforts the Ship was at length got out clear and left the place. The second officero and two men belonging to the alahmalpa were on shore at Chileant and impoudently ate a number of muscles found on the Neach, shortly after their seturn on Soard they were seized with sickness at the stomach and swelling of the Innbo, the officer and one man inmediately Took an emeter and threw The poisonous matter of their Romach

the other neglected this precaution and in a few hours expersed in great misery Many of the muscles found on the coast contain the most deterious poison, but the Indians deslinguish their and eat the others without any ill effect. among other fortuitous events may be meterned the loss of the brig Lavinia, Capet. Halbrook on her passage from Canton to america. The was spoken off the Cape of Good Hope and was never heard of afterwards, she had unfortunate by been on the rocks on the M.M. coast and I presume was more injured than those on board were aware of at the close of the season then of trade was at its lowestest. The Indians had obtained such quantities of cloth, muskels and that they held these articles in very littly detimation At Rigarnee and its neighborthood I have Arequently seen the natives sell the sailow & fathom of blue cloth which cost not less than 3 dollars in america

for 5 beservet and a good musket for Hea: this was not done from any seascity of provisions, but from their having a surplus of these articles which they were at a loss what to do with Rice, molasses and bread were the articles in any sort of demand and but few vessels had any To dispose of. masters longing to skins. Description name of Vessels Cunningham Boston 3 500 Ship Globe Hild " atahnalpa 3 000 Derby " 3 000 Caroline Phila 300 Bries manchester Estetts Boston Schooner Hetty Briggs Phila 500 Brocker Boston 500 14000 Ship Jeany Vancouver Brown Boston wintered June Kendrick Briston Lold at Canton for 20 dollars

The Unicom Barber went to Europe by the way of Cape Horn with 400 or 500 skins collected during the two seasons. Business on the coast began to wear a rather mont favourable aspect, yet still the price given for skins was enormously high- 7 and 8 fathoms of blue cloth with a number of small articles muskets would not sell unless they were the best of Kings arms or handsome fowling Sieces Bread Rice and Molasses still held their value, none of the vessels which arrived this season had a saf. Accient quantity to meet the demand. Aussian Shielting was also in demand of common blue cloth; these un reason-able prices were not given on all parts of the coast. at Newette Milbank Sound + some parts of Queen Charlotte Selando, skins went procured on more favorable Terms at Neweter, 4 fathoms with the usual small accompanionents were given

in the early part of the year. Towards the close the Ship Jenny and schooner Hetty visited it svery winnecessarily gave double that price. Duch an ancommon influx of what was by them consider. ed weath, brought with it its usual concomitant laxury & want of econo. my. Many of the natives who were formerly contented with one garment now word several and often changed them Jos new ones. This in some measure Counteracted the surrous effect, which the exorbitant price given for skins would otherwise have had on the trade in Auture. The Indians with that want A forthought natural to people in an uneouscious state did not reflect on the presibility of their supplies hereafter being more limited and made no provision against Autun wats, mideed it was a very natural conclusion for them to draw that the supplies Jurnished them would continue to be as liberal as at present. They well know our sole

motive for visiting them was, ultimate gain, by an exchange of commodities It could not suppose that we could so enterely lose sight of the formany object of our voyage as to give them more actual value for their skins than we could ever hope to neceive for them again, but they did not know that Some who had the direction of their traffie, were searcely capable of making the most simple calculations and others attended July to their own personal interests without any regard to that of their employers. Deveral gentlemen from Philadelphia had made mymisies at Canton, respecting the M.M. Inade, and adopting the general opinion of its being very lucrative they titled out the Manchedles and Hetty Swith the most sanguing of expectations as I have sing heard them declase of sapidly accumy. lating a fortune in the business The Manchester went to lingland and

took a very well assorted cargoe, with which she arrived on the boast early in 1801. The was communeled by Capt. Brice, a man who had passed his grand climacteric & had never been any longer voyage than across the Attante. The officers were drunkands and the crew mutinous and disorderly. The supercargo was a young man of talents, but without experience and not an individual on board had ever been on the Coast before. Thus situated and the Captain & Duper Cargo at variance, this not to supposed They could be successful They coursed of the Southern Coast during the Summer and writered at Moother Round; here seven of the onew deserted and went on shore among the Indians by whom they were afteredward massacsed and devoured). In the spring of this year they came to the northward as far as Cumshawars ou Queen Charlotte Islands, but a want of local

Knowledge and other circumstances prevented their meeting with any suc cess & in July they proceeded to China with 3 or skins, the sale of which and the remainder of her outward cargoe not producing sufficient funds to pay her Port charges; She was trans-Hersed to Mr. Barry at Canton, Thus lended the first altempt of the Philadelphians to participate with the Boo. Tou Merchants in the M. M. Spade-The schooner Hetty was rather more successful The touched at the Sandwith Islands on her way to the coast the Capitain then engaged a man to go with him to the boast who had been these several times before. He Hirst visited several ports on Queen Charlott Islands in the spring of this year, where Anding the natives not melined to sell their skins for the price offered he took the unjustifiable and permicious method of using coercive measunes to compil them to trade

Deveral Cheifs were seized and put in erons, obliged to deliver up all their skins for which he gave them just what he pleased. These proceedings set all that part of the coast in a Serment in april Capt. Buggo came Linto Rigarnee, when was the Vancouver Caroline Globe and atahwalfa-The commanders of These vessels went on board and remonstrated with him on the impropriety of his conduct of Answatened if he persisted in such ne farious practices, to lend the natives every assistance in capturing him, he however arrived at canton with about 500 skins + made a sumous voyage The ship June of Bristol, R.J. arrived in July. The Fitted out from England and part of her cargo was designed for the spanish Coast Capitain Kendrick who commanded her was reported to be meane at intervals and all was con-Ausion on board her. The cargo was well assorted and might have been sold

The advantage. The went to the Sandwich Islands Towinter; there Capt Kendrick was superceeded in command and left on show, the vessel seturned to the coase and eventually carried down 1700 or 1800 skus but made a sinking voyage I must now relate a transaction which attaches a very considerable Share of blame to my countrymen, a transaction enterely sepagnant to Noth the dictates, humanity + policy, which, though it may in some measure A palliated can by no means be justified, indeed, in this instance as if they had all lost their sense of proprietly, thrown aside the advantages of civilogation , entirely exchanged Characters with the ferbecous savage In the year 1799 the Russians Grom Kamschatka had formed an eotablishment on norfolk Lound, consisting of about 30 Russians and Too or 800 mations of Rodine & Oonalaska for the purpose of kulling sea atter

+ other animals. They had built a strong fort, contrary to the wishes of the native Indeans who had notwithstanding conducted themselves in a peaceable manner, probably awed by the superior prower of their new invaders. Much of their discredit the Russians did not adopt the same concelliatory conduct but on some real or pretended supricing Languinary Source towards these people some of whom were massacred, and others sent in captivity to the Rodine Islands. Stimulated to sevenge by the loss of friend and relatives & Finding their source of wealth + almost of subsistence surged by strangers settled among them contrary to their wishes, the natives formed a Aslan of altacking the fort & either extirspating their opposes on at a slow or perishing in the attempt. They succeeded, got possession of the Fort by surprise and mistantly part h deathevery man in the garrison

The Indian women who were living with the Russian men wer made captives, the Rodines wen at this time scattend about in hunting parties & became an easy prey to their more warlike opponents. Dome of them escaped in Their canoes to the Russian settlements Justher north + others were killed or made slaves. antecedent to this the Ship Jenny had been at Horfock Sound when seven of her men deserted and took se Juge with the Russians. The natives knew this twilling to make a just distinction between those whom they considered as commercial friend and their arbitrary opposessors; they sent a message sequesting the amer. icans to make them a friendly visit at their village. Die of them accepted the invitation, the other man was out with a sparty of Kadiacs hunting. When they arrived at the wellage the Indians communicated their designs and sequested assistance, this they

of course sefused giving, they were then assured that no mining would be Aftered them but at the same time in formed that they would be detained at the village to prevent any intime tron being given to the Russians of what was in agitation. From the time of the successful attack on the Russians the Indians constantly protected and supplied the americans tell 2 american and one English Ship came in about 20 days afterwards; they were then permitted to go when they chose. Such Conduct towards their countrymen merited the most friendly return from The americans and policy as well as justice for fade any attempt to avenge the cause of the Russians, but unfortunately the commanders and officers adopted a different opinion. I am inclined to suppose they were in This instance too much influenced By the commandant the English Whip who was induced from motives of

interest to take part with the Russian He was round to Kodiae and knew that whatever prisoners might be noand would be sent with him to the Russian Dettements. This he expected would ingratiale him with the Rus-Dians and procuse him some commercial advantages among them. at a meeting of the officers of the different vessels it was agreed to seize the native cheifs from were alongside Grading in the most friendly manner and Reeps them as hostages until the Rodial women and other prisoners on shore were delivered up. In persuance of this resolve several who chanced to be on deck were inmediately secured + an attempt made to seize those in the canoes who fled for the shore. They were find at from the ships and to the elemal disgrace of their civilized visitors numbers were killed. The first law of mature, self defense, justified them in seturning

the fire which they did but without effect. The caption cheifs were then told that unless all the prisoners on the shore were delivered up they wust expeet no mercy (+ as it might have Agen added no justice). They plead Men with mability to comply with this sequisition, as the perisoners wen in possession of mdividuals over whom they had no anthority. One of the natives attempted to make his escape, but failed & in the attempt slightly wounded one of the ships com. pany. He was immediately singled aut as a proper subject of Dengiance + it was determined to sacrifice him hoping by that means to obtain the object in view. After a kind of mock trial he was in the true style of marine execution, placed on a gun on the Rosecastle with a halter from the yard-arm round his neek, the gun Fired + he hung in the smoke of it I cannot imagine the gentlemen could

De so grossly ignorant of all laws, humane and divine as to suppose the Hormalities used on this occasion could sanction an action at which humanity shudders and justice stand appalled One moments seflection must have told them that for the abuse of Jower they were amendable to the laws of their country, the strict letter of which would condemn them to The same ignomineous punishment they had inflicted on this un fortunote Indian. To me their conduct appears inexplicable + will bear no comments. Osevious to his execution the Indian addressed them in a speech of the following purport which would have made ausmpnession on any not deaf to the cry of justice "What crime have me been quilly of to justify this wanton attack on our Riberty and our lives, have we in any instance violated the harmon Authortoo existing between us, did we

not on a late accasion nicely disomminate between our commercial Friends and our moaders & cruel oppressors. When we sacrificed the one to our just resentment, the other we protected, supported the first apportunity restoned to their countrymen t is this the proper return for such conduct. You say itis to sevenge the massacre of the Russians and release the prisoners that this attack is made. The americans have hithesto declared that the Russians were a distant nation with whom they had no closer connection than with wo; if that is the case by what right do you interfere in the quarrels betwist us. When the Russians took numbers of our tribe and carried them into capturity, no one offered to reserve them- your countrymen tis true reprobated the measure and insimuated that we ought to take every Specantion to prevent the Russians

from establishing themselves among us. This led und rather to view you as friends from whom we might expect assistance, not as enemies who would oppose us. If you persist in your present conduct all friendly intercourse is at an end for who well ever dan place any confidence in people who have so grossly abused it as you have in the present instance I have before observed that this speech had no effect. The man was executed, after several days some of the Kodiae prisoners were beberated put ou board the English vessel and sent to their former place of residence. The fate of the Norfolk Dound Indians was particularly distressing In the Dummer the Russ Sans invaded them in great force having with them a Sloop of Har which had come suls these seas from St. Petersburg by the way of Cape Horn. The Indians made

a brave resistance and got possession of a stockade or fort which they main Harned for some time, but attlength their amunition being all expended and their numbers reduced they determined to abandon their native Shores, & seek a retreat in the interior part of the country. In persuance of this resolve they collected together I shocking to relate and cut the throat of the infants of old people of both sexes who were unable to support a journey through the desolate wildemess; Choosing rather to massacre them with their own hands than to suffer them to fall alive mito the hands of their enemies from whom they Sexpected no metcy- These partitular I had direct from the commander of the sloop of war, he informed that on landing to take possession of the fort he found it covered with the mangled Rodies of all the aged, in firm and mnocent infants.

Captain Herby of the Caroline was left at the Sandwich Islands for the recovery of his health but died then in Defetember. The ship proceeded On the China.

A ship called the Louis sailed Hrom Boston for the Coast commandled by Kapt Haswell. She tracked at Wea Janeiro, left there and was never heard of afterwards. Tis thought she must have foundered off cape Hom. I am entirely convinced she never arrived on the Coast notweeth_ standing the confident assertions h the Contrary-